
WALTHAM HOLY CROSS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

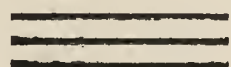
and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1938

WALTHAM HOLY CROSS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1938



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30258030>

WALTHAM HOLY CROSS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council*

I have the honour to present to you my
Annual Report for the year 1938 in the form
prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health :

L. S. FRY, M.D.Camb. D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

J. W. MEDLEY, M.S.I.A.

(Diplomas for Meat and Food Inspection).

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	10,959
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-year 1938 ...	7,164
Number of inhabited houses end of 1938 according to Rate Book	2,034
Rateable value	£48,545
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£187

Vital Statistics.

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births	{ Legitimate ...	57	42	101
	{ Illegitimate ...	—	2	
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...				14.09
Still Births		1	1	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				19.4
Deaths		47	40	87
Crude death rate ...	10.2 per 1,000 of population			
Corrected death rate	9.9	„	„	„

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Puerperal causes	0	0

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	39
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legiti- mate live births	... ..	40
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegiti- mate live births	... ..	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... ..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)		0

There was again a slight decline in the birth rate, and both death and infantile mortality rates were lower than in the previous year.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year under review, nor is there any evidence that the occupation or environment of the inhabitants of the district exert any prejudicial effect upon health.

Social Conditions of the Area.

Most of the inhabitants earn their living in one of the local factories, whilst those in the rural part of the district are occupied mainly in the glasshouse culture of tomatoes, cucumbers and mushrooms, or in dairy farming.

The industries of the district include the Royal Gunpowder Factory, and factories for the manufacture

of tennis racquets, chemical fertilisers, "Catalin" and hosiery.

There is virtually no unemployment in the district at the present time.

National Health Campaign.

Posters and handbills were exhibited in schools, the Child Welfare Centre, and shops during the early part of the year.

Leaflets urging parents to have their children immunised against diphtheria were distributed at regular intervals in schools and the Welfare Centre.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

No change.

The number of specimens from the district examined at the Counties Public Health Laboratory was as follows:—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	623
Sputa	...	...	...	6
Typhoid	...	...	...	7
Ringworm	...	...	...	—
General	...	...	...	38
Milk	...	...	...	<u>2</u>
Ice Cream	...	...	...	—

Water	...	...	...	—
Sewage	...	...	...	—
Total				676
Biological examinations				
	for virulence test	...		—
	for Tubercle Bacilli	...		—

These figures include the examinations made for the Waltham Joint Hospital.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

No change. These are adequate for the district.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

No change.

The number of Midwives practising in the area is as follows :—

District Nurse-Midwives	...	3
Independent „	...	1

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No change.

(e) Hospitals.

No change.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. (i) Water.

The Metropolitan Water Board supplies practically the whole of the area with water from deep wells in Lea Road and Rammey Marsh, Waltham Abbey. The supply of water is ample, the quality good, and the supply constant.

The supply of water from springs to certain farms and houses in the outlying parts of the area depend to a great extent on the rainfall.

One sample of water obtained from a spring was submitted for analysis and found to be satisfactory.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

The urban part of the area and the rural parts of Upshire and High Beech are provided with sewers with outfall to the Town Sewage Works.

A new 21 in. southern outfall sewer for the sewerage of Sewardstone has been laid from the Main Works to Grange Hill and was completed in April, 1938. Beyond Grange Hill the whole of the sewage of Sewardstone is to be lifted into the above gravitation sewer at Grange Hill, and the Scheme, known as Section III, is awaiting the sanction of the Ministry.

Sundry extensions of the sewerage system have been carried out at Pick Hill, Sewardstone-bury and Avey Lane.

2. (i) Closet Accommodation.

Houses in the urban portion of the area and on the line of the sewers in the rural area are provided with water closets. Isolated premises have water closets connected to cesspools, or earth closets.

Number of houses with privies	...	5
„ „ „ „ pail closets	...	122
„ „ „ „ water closets		1,997

(ii) Public Cleansing.

House refuse is removed, weekly with the exception of High Beech area, by covered motor freighter, and disposed of by incineration at the Town Sewage Works.

A certain number of cesspools are cleansed by Council employees by means of a pump and closed tanks, and the contents broadcast on grass land.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

NUISANCE INSPECTION :

Number of inspections made in 1938	...	763
Number of nuisances in hand at close of 1937	... ..	20
Number of nuisances in hand at close of 1938	... ..	56
Number of nuisances found in 1938	...	319
Number of nuisances abated in 1938	...	283
Number of informal notices served	...	146
Number of statutory notices served	...	2
Number of statutory notices complied with	... ..	4

Number of summonses or other legal proceedings	Nil
--	-----

DISINFECTION :

Number of visits re cleansing and dis- infection of premises after cases of infectious disease	44
---	----

PETROLEUM ACTS :

Number of licences granted	32
„ „ inspections of premises	57

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919 :

The Sanitary Inspector is the Officer appointed under the Order. Thirty-nine inspections of premises have been made during the year and instructions given to deal with the nuisance under varying conditions. The Council have undertaken to supply free small quantities of rat poison to householders in necessitous cases.

The Ministry's Memorandum on suggestions for rat destruction was circulated to 106 persons occupying farms, dog kennels, piggeries, slaughter-houses and corn stores, tomato and cucumber nurseries.

Rats appear to travel some distance without having a permanent abode near the places where they obtain food. I have found considerable quantities of food thrown out into gardens for birds which have been left for the roving rat.

Baiting with Red Squill bait is not as successful as it ought to be owing apparently to the rats having access to food. Where it is possible to ensure that rats are unable to get anything else to eat, the Red Squill bait has been the means of clearing them.

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS :

Visits to works in progress ...	... 151
Appointments, visits re non-abatement of nuisances and other causes ...	169
Visits re cleansing of cesspools ...	21

ICE CREAM REGULATIONS UNDER ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1933 :

Number of persons registered as manufacturers and vendors ...	9
Number of persons registered as vendors	15
Number of inspections of premises ...	29

(iv) Shops.

Action has been necessary in one instance only, with regard to sanitary conveniences.

(v) Camping Sites.

(1) Number of sites in the area used for camping purposes during 1938 ...	20
(2) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority	15

- (3) Estimated maximum number of camp-
ers resident in the area at one time
during the summer season ... 1650

The increase in week-end camping in the district requires supervision by your officers on Saturdays and Sundays to see that the terms of the licences are carried out. The number of inspections made for this purpose was forty-five.

The camping sites are provided with separate privy accommodation for the sexes, sufficient supply of water, in most cases from the mains, and sufficient covered receptacles for refuse.

The camps have been well conducted during the season.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary for the abatement of nuisances from smoke in the area.
Number of observations taken ... 15

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

(a) Public—none.

(b) Privately owned—There are two swimming pools in the district:—

(1) At the King's Oak Hotel, High Beech—filtering and chlorinating plant installed.

(2) Gilwell Park Scouts Camp—water changed fortnightly and chlorinated.

Number of inspections ... 9

(viii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|---|
| (1) | Council houses found to be infested | ... | 4 |
| | Other houses found to be infested | ... | 3 |
| | Houses disinfested | ... .. | 7 |
| (2) | Sulphur and Cimex blocks used for freeing infested houses. | | |
| (3) | Nil. | | |
| (4) | Nil. | | |
| (5) | Frequent visits paid by Sanitary Inspector. | | |

4. Schools.

There are four public elementary schools in the area and inspections are made of their sanitary condition. Their water supply is satisfactory. In the case of one of them the washing accommodation, referred to in last year's report, has been greatly improved by the addition of wash basins.

Cases of infectious disease are investigated and absentees visited as far as possible.

Number of inspections of schools	...	34
----------------------------------	-----	----

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

- | | | | |
|---------|---|--------|-----|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | 206 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... .. | 264 |

(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	93
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	141
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	12
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	62
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—</i>						
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	54
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—</i>						
(a)	—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:					
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—					

(a)	By owners	...	...	4
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil
(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:				
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—			
(a)	By owners	...	...	2
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil
(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:				
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made			5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...		5
(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:				
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been ren- dered fit	...	...	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.*

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year	...	...	...	20
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...			20
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...			144
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...		Nil
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...		Nil
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	Nil
(d)	Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding				Nil
	Total number of houses measured up for the purpose of issuing a certificate of the permitted number of persons on the application of the owner of the house	...	...	...	8

At the time of writing this report the Council's rehousing programme for the relief of overcrowding is nearing completion.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

All premises where milk is produced, handled or stored are visited regularly and strict

supervision is exercised to ensure the clean production and proper handling of the milk.

Number of cowkeepers on the register	18
Number of milksellers who are also cowkeepers 	8
Number of milksellers who are pur- veyors only 	6
Number of inspections in 1938	.. 176
Approximate number of milch cows ...	488
Tuberculin tested milk is produced at two farms.	

Accredited milk is produced at nine farms.

Supplementary licences for the sale of milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, were granted as follows:—

2	to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested.
1	„ „ „ „ Accredited.
4	„ „ „ „ Pasteurised.

Informal notices have been served with reference to limewashing sheds, dirty stools, floors, and the flanks of cows in fifteen cases.

Two samples of milk were obtained from Retailers, submitted for analysis, and found to be satisfactory.

The reconstruction of a cowshed with improvement of light and ventilation has been carried out at one farm during the year.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEME :

Number of samples of milk obtained

from producers or dealers in the district and examined biologically ...	4
---	---

Negative	4
----------	---

Positive	0
----------	---

Number of samples of milk obtained from producers in the district and examined by the Methylene Blue Reduction Test	45
--	----

Satisfactory	41
--------------	----

Unsatisfactory	4
----------------	---

Meat and Other Foods.

A Cattle Market and General Market are held at Waltham Abbey on Tuesdays where the sale of food is supervised.

The sanitary condition of all premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale is satisfactory.

There are four slaughterhouses in the district; two are registered and two are licensed. Regular inspections are made at the times of slaughter of animals and the number of visits paid was 263.

The slaughtering is spread out over the whole week, holidays included, and till late hours at night, which absorbs a large portion of the Sanitary Inspector's time.

Number of inspections of the Market—94.

Number of inspections of a Cooked Meat Factory—83.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Number Inspected ...	271	3	129	504	1887
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	1	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	14	—	1	—	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	5.16	—	1.55	0.19	1.43
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned... ...	1	—	—	—	55
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0.73	—	—	—	2.96

In addition, one box of Dog Fish was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

There are fourteen slaughtermen licensed under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act, etc.

These are under the control of the Essex County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This is carried out when necessary by the County Authorities.

TABLE.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	15	3	None
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	56	3	None
Workplaces (other than Out-workers' Premises) ...	None	None	None
Totals	71	6	None

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	None	None
Want of Ventilation	None	None	None	None
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	None	None
Other Nuisances	2	2	None	None
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts	None	None	None	None
Totals	6	6	None	None

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever.

This disease was of the mild type now prevalent and characterised by an often faint and transient rash and the absence of serious complications.

Diphtheria.

There was an outbreak of diphtheria in a small school in the rural part of the district at the beginning of the year. The first case, in a child aged 14, was of a virulent type which proved fatal. The child's brother, who was subsequently found to be suffering from a diphtheritic rhinitis, attended a children's party during the holidays and probably infected several other children at the school. Unfortunately, with one or two exceptions, none of the parents at this school had taken the precaution of having their children immunised, and by the end of January seven out of about thirty children in the school had developed the disease.

It was not thought desirable to close the school, but all the children were Schick tested and immunisation commenced in those giving a positive Schick reaction,

Children with rhinitis or sore throats were

excluded and swabbed and no further cases occurred after the end of January.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

As is so often the case, an outbreak of diphtheria stimulates the demand for immunisation, and nearly twice as many children were treated by practitioners as in the previous year.

A summary of the work done is given below.

Two injections of Alum Toxoid, 0.2 and 0.5 c.c., at two weeks interval.

Number of school children treated	49
„ „ pre-school age „	23
	—
Total	72
	—

Result of re-Schick tests:—	Cases
Schick negative ...	50
„ positive ...	1
Carried over to 1939 ...	21
	—
Total	72
	—

Measles Serum.

A small stock of this serum is kept in a refrigerator at the Town Hall, Chingford, for use by practitioners in Chingford and Waltham Abbey. The blood from which this serum was prepared was collected from convalescent patients in the two districts.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the Year 1938.**

Disease			Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	13	¹² 10	0
Diphtheria	...	..	12	¹² 5	2
Puerperal Pyrexia		...	3	2	0
Pneumonia	...	...	3	0	0

Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases in Age Groups, 1938.

	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	3	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	2	6	3	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notifiable Diseases during the last five years.

		1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Scarlet Fever	...	41	15	20	10	13
Diphtheria	... ..	7	3	2	5	12
Typhoid & Paratyphoid		0	1	0	1	0
Pneumonia	... ..	26	6	3	3	3
Erysipelas	... ..	7	1	4	0	3
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia		0	1	1	2	3

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- respiratory		Respiratory		Non- respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	2	1	1	—	—	—

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There was only one death from Tuberculosis which had been previously notified.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Medley, for his loyal co-operation during the year, and acknowledging also the consideration and support I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Yours obediently,

L. S. FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).
(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

				126	148			
				England and Wales	County Boro's and Great Towns including London	Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Waltham Abbey
Rates per 1,000 Population.								
Births :—								
Live	..	..	..	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4	14.09
Still	..	..	..	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48	0.2
Deaths :—								
All Causes	..	..		11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4	9.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers		..		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Smallpox	..	..		0.00	—	0.00	—	—
Measles	..	..		0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	—
Scarlet fever	..	..		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Whooping Cough		..		0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	—
Diphtheria	..	..		0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.27
Influenza	..	..		0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.27
Notifications :—								
Smallpox	..	..		0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Scarlet fever	..	..		2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05	1.81
Diphtheria	..	..		1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90	1.67
Enteric fever	..	..		0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	—
Erysipelas	..	..		0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.41
Pneumonia	..	..		1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98	0.41
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.								
Deaths under one year of age	..	..	..	53	57	51	57	39
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	..	..		5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1	—
Maternal Mortality :—								
Puerperal Sepsis	..			0.89	Not available			
Others	..	..	..	2.19				
Total	..	..	..	3.08				
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).								
Maternal Mortality :—								
Puerperal Sepsis	..			0.86	Not available			
Others	..	..	..	2.11				
Total	..	..	..	2.97				
Notifications :—								
Puerperal fever	..			14.42	18.08	12.51	3.53	—
Puerperal pyrexia	..						15.46	29.1

